The original idea was to divert the river by a big channel of about 2,500 cusecs capacity at only one place. Since this may lead to danger from floods especially at the point of exit, it is now proposed to divert the water in two places. The channel from the Manali river is proposed to be of about 1000 cusecs capacity and that from the main Karuvannur river of about 1500 cusecs capacity".

Resolutions on the report of the Special Finance Committee.

Head Clerks of Munsiff Courts.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to move that "*This Council recommends that, due regard being given to the responsible nature of the work of the Head clerks of the Munsiffs' Courts in accepting documents, in fixing court-fees and penalty, etc., they may be given Rs. 60 to 80.*"

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I beg to second it.

The resolution was put and agreed to.

Typists.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to move that "*This Council recommends to the Government that all typists in departmental and sub-offices be given the benefit of the time-scale pay of Rs. 30 to 60.*"

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I beg to second it.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—May I know whether this would affect only all departmental and sub-offices, and are they to get Rs. 30 to 60 ?

President.—Yes, that is, excluding the Huzur.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—If it excludes the Huzur, I have nothing to say.

The resolution was agreed to.

Shorthand Reporters of the Council

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I beg to move that "*This Council recommends that the scale of pay of the three Shorthand Reporters (permanent) of this Council be raised to Rs. 40—6—70*".

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—I beg to second it.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The main purpose for which the Special Finance Committee was constituted was to increase the pay of the low-paid subordinates of the Cochin Government service and naturally every low-paid servant pleads for the same. From a perusal of the report, one finds that the case of the shorthand reporters of the Cochin Legislative Council has not been given the least consideration. The only reason attributable to it is that they form the smallest percentage (only three in all) of the Government servants. The typists and the shorthand typists have been recommended for an increase in pay. The present grade of the reporters, as can be found from

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the report, is 25 to 50. Thus they are deemed to be in no way better than ordinary typists.

The work of a shorthand typist is very hard. His work requires much intelligence and is better in quality than that of an ordinary typist. The case of a shorthand reporter of the Council is still harder. While the shorthand typists of the courts and other offices have this advantage of requiring only a speed of 100 to 120 words in shorthand, the minimum required of a shorthand reporter of the Council is not less than 160 to 180. The shorthand typists again have another advantage. The language is the same every day, for he has to take down what is dictated by a single individual, a Munsiff or a Judge, and as he has shorthand work almost every day, he does not require any extra parctice at home. The case of a shorthand typist or a shorthand reporter living after the age of 50 is a rarity, and if he has a wish to live longer, he has to change his profession at the age of 30 or 35.

The shorthand reporter of the Council, whose case is, as has been adverted to above, far far worse than that of an ordinary typist or even a shorthand typist, should have command of a very high speed, sometimes even 200 words. He should be in touch with almost every subject and command a good language. He should also be accustomed to the language and phraseology of every individual Member. This he could do only in the course of one or two years, and by the time he studies them, fresh Members are returned to the Council, and he has to begin his work afresh. The reporter also becomes, it need not be reiterated, a victim to chronic indebtedness and premature death.

Comparing the work of reporters of other Councils and that of those of the Cochin Legislative Council, in Travancore the reporters have no other work than the reporting and publication of the Proceedings of the Council, and the preparation of the index. Thus they will have ample time to spare on all office days. So they find ample time to practise in shorthand from the office itself and Government have also ordered so. Here, of the two English reporters, one is entrusted with the whole typing work of the office and the maintenance of all registers, and the other is exclusively entrusted with the publication of the Proceedings and the preparation of the index—a laborious task and a task done by six hands in Travancore. The Malayalam shorthand reporter is entrusted with the despatch work and the proof reading of the Malayalam portion in the Proceedings. They have no time to spare during office hours

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for practising shorthand, which reporters of all other Councils get, and without extra practice they are not able to command the high speed required of them during sittings, for which they have to work in their houses. But they are not given any remuneration for this extra work.

I understand resolutions were passed in the Madras, Bombay and other Councils to the effect that the service of the shorthand reporters of Councils be limited to a period of 20 years or that they may be made eligible for full pension at the expiry of that period, the chief reasons favouring this being premature death and chronic illness of the reporter. The Bombay Government has since accepted this principle. In Travancore, the shorthand reporters, shorthand typists and typists submitted a memorial to the Government that they might be made eligible for full pension at the end of 20 years, and that is under the consideration of that Government.

Unlike ordinary clerks, the reporters have very little chance of being put in higher grades. An ordinary clerk can rise up to Rs.70 or 90 and a graduate clerk to any extent; but now these, when they are reporters, as some of them are, have special grades beyond which they cannot go. These are the various reasons that have led all civilized Governments to give the typists, especially the shorthand typists and particularly the reporters very high salaries.

In our sister State of Travancore, where there are six permanent English reporters and one Malayalam reporter in the Council, (here there are only three, two English and one Malayalam) one is put in the grade of Rs. 80 to 120, 2 on 60 to 80 and 4 on 40 to 70, one of these being the Malayalam reporter. In Travancore in addition to the one permanent Malayalam reporter during sittings one more is drafted to assist him. Here the whole reporting work is done by one man. The art of Malayalam shorthand itself is very difficult, and there are only very few who know the art well. The shorthand typists there are in the grade of Rs. 50 to 70 and the typists would reach in due course to a maximum of Rs. 50 and in the Secretariat it comes to even Rs. 60.

A comparison of the salaries of the shorthand typists and reporters of the other States and Provincial Governments would go a great extent in favour of those of the Cochin State. In Mysore the lowest grade is Rs. 60 and the highest 200. In Madras the lowest is 125 and the highest 250. Recently it has been recommended to the Government by the Legislative Council that they should be put on an equal status with the reporters of the other Provincial Councils, where the minimum is Rs. 250 and the maximum Rs. 450.

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Comparisons are all in favour of the reporters of the Cochin Legislative Council. I do not want to put them in the grade of Rs. 250 to 450, 125 to 250, 80 to 120 or 60 to 80 but I only wish that they may be put in the grade of Rs. 40 to 70, a most moderate request and wish. It is the lowest grade of the shorthand reporters of the sister State of Travancore. While the Cochinites are so eager to follow their sister States in the matter of everything regarding the Legislative Council, it is too hard that they do not follow them in the case of the poor, ill-starred reporters, who are only three in number, of the Cochin Legislative Council.

Further, if their pay is not revised now, it may take years and years, say 12 or 15 years, when there would be another revision of the pay of the Government servants, and as such, if they do not get anything now, they cannot hope anything for the coming fifteen years.

In view of the facts stated above, the grade of pay of the shorthand reporters of the Cochin Legislative Council may be recommended to be raised at least to Rs. 40 to 70.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I have to point out something about their grade. What I wish to draw your attention to is this. The three grades obtainable in Travancore are Rs. 80-120, 60-80 and 40-70 and the number of people employed in the Travancore Council are seven including the one Malayalam reporter, and the number of people employed here permanently is only three. Practically, the quantity of reporting work turned out is the same. In Travancore, during the Council sessions, one additional reporter is drafted for reporting, and here there are only three, and practically the work is the same.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Does it include the work in the Representative Assembly too?

President.—Have these shorthand writers anything to do with the work in the Assembly also?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I believe so, Sir. There is extra work.

President.—Once in a year, the Assembly sits for 10 days.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Is it for 10 days or 20 days?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—No doubt there is additional work. But there the reporters have nothing to do with the office work. But our reporters do clerical work during the whole year. The grade that is recommended here in the resolution is the least grade, i. e., 40—6—70. Then I wish to point out in this connection that a resolution has been passed to show the nature of their work. Resolutions were passed in the Madras, Bombay and other Councils that the service of the shorthand reporters

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of the Council should be limited to a period of 20 years. By the time they deal with this work for 20 years, their life is nearly finished. They have to experience different modes, different varieties, anddifferent methods of speeches and different temperaments and different scenes all rushing through. It is a truism to say that the 20 years' service of these reporters is equal to 30 years' service of other servants of the Government. That is the reason why we propose the grade 40—6—70.

President.—So they are to reach their maximum in 5 years since the increment is Rs. 6 every year. Have you got any amendment to this resolution?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What I have got to say is that there may be two grads, if necessary, one on Rs. 50 to 70 and the other two on Rs. 40 to 60.

President.—How many on Rs. 40 to 60 and how many on Rs. 50 to 70?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Two on Rs. 40 to 60 and one on Rs. 50 to 70, so that the Government may be able to carry it out. There would not be much difference between the proposals of the Special Finance Committee and those of ours.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I beg to second the amendment.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I accept the amendment.

Question put:—"*That the pay of the three permanent shorthand reporters of the Legislative Council be placed in two grades 40 to 60 and 50 to 70, two being placed in Rs. 40 to 60 and one in Rs. 50 to 70 grade.*"

Question put and agreed to.

Officers in the temporary establishments.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—It may be a surprise to many Members of this House—but all the same it is true, that there are some officers in the so-called temporary establishment who have put in more than 25 years of continued Government service and yet have not been made permanent and are not entitled to the privileges which other officers are enjoying, namely, privilege leave, pension, etc. Watchers and Tanadars in the Forest Department come under this category. What is the fun of classifying them under temporary establishment when it has to be admitted that the Forest Department cannot be administered without any adequate number of Tanadars and Watchers? Make the whole Forest Department as a temporary establishment and then I do not quarrel if Watchers and Tanadars, the lowest paid, are in the temporary list. It is certainly very cruel not to allow these men the privileges of the other Government officers after making them work during the best

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